

1. (CANCELLED)

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4. (Currently Amended) A ~~The method of~~ Claim 3, method of treating tree exhibiting a decline in health the tree having an established root system in the earth, said method comprising the steps of:

creating, in a container, a mixture comprising a fertilizer and a growth hormone; and

applying the previously created mixture from the container directly underground to the soil in the root system of the tree to treat the root system of the tree,

wherein the growth hormone is selected from the group consisting of naphthalene acetic acid and 3-indolebutyric acid,

wherein the step of applying the mixture comprises the step of applying the mixture directly underground through holes drilled at points around the periphery of the tree canopy,

wherein the step of applying the mixture comprises the step of applying the mixture directly underground through holes drilled at points around the periphery of the tree canopy spaced apart by substantially 18 inches.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, further comprising the steps of:

watering the tree to saturate the soil to a depth of 8 to 10 inches,

allowing the soil in the root system of the tree to dry out over time so as to prevent bacteria and fungi from attacking the root, and

re-watering the tree to saturate the soil to a depth of 8 to 10 inches.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein the fertilizer has a nitrogen content in the range of about 10 to about 25 percent by weight, a phosphorous content in the range of about 5 to about 20 percent by weight, and a potassium content in the range of about 5 to about 20 percent by weight.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, further comprising the step of:

leaving intact the holes drilled at points around the periphery of the tree canopy so as to aerate the root system of the tree and aid in root growth.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7, wherein said step of creating a mixture further comprises the step of adding a fungicide.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, wherein said fungicide comprises the tetramethylthiuramdisulfide.

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21. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of Claim 18~~ A method for treating a distressed tree planted in the earth, the distressed tree exhibiting a decline in health, the tree having an established root system in the earth, said method comprising the steps of:

creating a hole in the soil in a root area of a tree; and

applying directly underground a previously prepared mixture comprising a fertilizer and a root growth hormone in the hole created in a subterranean root area of the tree,

wherein the root growth hormone is selected from the group consisting of naphthalene acetic acid and 3-indolebutyric acid,

and further comprising the steps of:

watering the distressed tree to saturate the soil to a depth of 8 to 10 inches,

allowing the soil in the root system of the distressed tree to dry out over time so as to prevent bacteria and fungi from attacking the root, and

rewatering the distressed tree to saturate the soil to a depth of 8 to 10 inches.

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